

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

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MEMORANDUM

July 17, 2018

To: Subcommittee on Health Democratic Members and Staff

Fr: Committee on Energy and Commerce Democratic Staff

Re: Hearing on “21st Century Cures Implementation: Examining Mental Health Initiatives”

On **Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing titled “21st Century Cures Implementation: Examining Mental Health Initiatives.”

I. THE 21st CENTURY CURES ACT

The bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) was signed into law on December 13, 2016.¹ The law consists of three divisions: Division A – 21st Century Cures Act; Division B – Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis; and Division C – Increasing Choice, Access, and Quality in Health Care for Americans. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the status of Division C provisions which are being implemented by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). These provisions aim to improve mental health programs and activities implemented by SAMHSA. Please refer to the [bipartisan summary](#) of the 21st Century Cures Act for more information on each section of the law.²

A. Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Reform Act

¹ Pub. L. No. 114-255.

² Summary of the 21st Century Cures Act prepared by bipartisan Committee staff (<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules.house.gov/files/114/PDF/114-SAHR34-Sxs.pdf>); See also Congressional Research Service, *The 21st Century Cures Act, Division A of P.L. 114-255* (Dec. 23, 2016) (<http://www.crs.gov/Reports/R44720?source=search&guid=7b425d8813284929a0dd74dbc7947b80&index=0>).

The Cures Act made several changes to mental health authorities and programs implemented by SAMHSA, reauthorized several existing mental health grant programs, and created new programs. For example, the legislation created a new title for the leader of SAMHSA, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, who assumed all the responsibilities of the previous SAMHSA Administrator. The Cures Act also created the National Mental Health Policy Laboratory and the Inter-Departmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee which issued a [report](#) to Congress titled, *The Way Forward: Federal Action for a System that Works for All People Living with SMI and SED and Their Families and Caregivers*, on December 13, 2017.

II. WITNESS

Elinore F. McCance-Katz, MD, PhD

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